

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

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R 261615Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4515

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 995

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0362

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: US-UK-FR DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 66890

1. RE TIMING OF APPROACH, IT ALMOST CERTAIN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE APRIL 7. BRITISH EMBASSY SAYS MULLER LEAVING FRIDAY FOR HOLIDAY LASTING THROUGH PARLIAMENT'S EASTER RECESS (MARCH 28 TO APRIL 7). FRENCH AMBASSADOR CURRENTLY IN PARIS, WILL RETURN APRIL 2 AND MAY DEPART ON TRANSFER AT END OF APRIL. BRITISH COUNSELLOR INCLINED FEEL IT BEST TO TIME APPROACH SO WE MIGHT REFER TO IT DURING SC DISCUSSIONS, E.G. NOTING THAT JOINT APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE, THAT SAG PROMISED CONSIDER MATTER, AND THAT THEIR REPLY WAS BEING AWAITED. IF MADE TOO EARLY, AFRICANS MIGHT SAY APPROACH MADE ONLY FOR EFFECT ON OAU, OR THEY MIGHT EXPECT RESULTS BY TIME OF SC MEETING. IF MADE TOO LATE, THEY MIGHT REGARD IT SIMPLY AS GIMMICK TO FORESTALL SC ACTION.

2. FRENCH CHARGE HAS IMPRESSION FROM WASHINGTON TALKS THAT TRIPARTITE APPROACH MIGHT INVOLVE PARALLEL BUT CONCEIVABLY
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DIFFERENT AIDES MEMOIRE; BRITISH EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS IT

MORE LIKELY AIDES MEMOIRE WOULD BE IDENTICAL WITH SOME POINTS LEFT TO BE MADE ORALLY DURING JOINT APPROACH, E.G., THAT WESTERN POWERS MIGHT VOICE CRITICAL VIEW OF UN COUNCIL ON NAMIBIA.

3. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAYS HE HAS SENT LONDON SEVERAL MESSAGES TO POINT OUT LIKELY INEFFECTIVENESS OF OVERLY AMBITIOUS APPROACH, AS SOUTH AFRICANS WILL SIMPLY IGNORE IT. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW CURRENT SAG PREOCCUPATION WITH RHODESIA, ALTHOUGH IT UNDOUBTEDLY IMPORTANT EXPRESS OUR STRONG CONCERN THAT THEY NOT CONTINUE LET MATTERS DRIFT IN NAMIBIA SIMPLY BECAUSE RHODESIAN PROBLEM REMAINS UNSOLVED.
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